Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. EC COMMISSION PREDICTS MODEST RECOVERY

THE EC COMMISSION PREDICTS A MODEST UPTURN IN THE EC NINE'S ECONOMY NEXT YEAR.

- --INCREASED EXPORTS, ESPECIALLY TO THE US, WILL LEAD THE RECOVERY ALTHOUGH INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION WILL CONTINUE SLUGGISH, CAUSING RECORD HIGH LEVELS OF UNEMPLOYMENT.
- --EVEN TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OPEC'S RECENT ACTION ON OIL PRICES, THE OVERALL RATE OF PRICE INCREASE WILL CONTINUE TO DECELERATE, BUT THE CURRENT ACCOUNTS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS WILL SLIP TO A SMALL DEFICIT.
- --THE FORECASTS FOR FRANCE ARE THE MOST BUOYANT OF THE SECRET

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NINE; FOR THE UK, HOWEVER, THE OUTLOOK IS BLEAK.

THE COMMISSION BELIEVES THE EC ECONOMY IS ABOUT ON COURSE AND RECOMMENDS NO FURTHER EXPANSIONARY MEASURES AT THIS TIME. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) EC BRUSSELS 8916, 10/3.)

2. UN REFORM MOVEMENT GAINING MOMENTUM

AS A RESULT OF THE DIALOGUE INITIATED DURING THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, THE MOVEMENT TO REFORM THE UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS IS GAINING STRENGTH. HOWEVER, THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S TENTATIVE THOUGHTS ON RESTRUCTURING, REFLECTING THE VESTED INTERESTS AS THEY DO, WILL NOT SATISFY THOSE INTERESTED IN GENUINE REFORM. THE US WILL HAVE TO ANNOUNCE ITSELF SHORTLY ON SEVERAL CRUCIAL ISSUES WHICH HAVE SURFACED. INCLUDING:

- --THE SIZE, COMPOSITION, AND CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE AD HOC COMITE BUREAU;
- --THE STATUS OF THE BACKSTOPPING SECRETARIAT: AND
- -THE ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM OF WORK. (CONFIDENTIAL) USUN 4766, 10/4.)
- 3. SPAIN
- A. LITTLE CHANGE LIKELY IN BRITAIN'S POLICY

HM AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN, CHARLES WIGGIN, INFORMED EMBASSY LONDON THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS NOW ENGAGED IN A POLICY REVIEW ON SPAIN, BUT DID NOT SUGGEST ANY PROFOUND DEPARTURES SUCH AS A BREAK IN RELATIONS, WOULD FOLLOW.

- --WIGGIN CLEARLY WANTED TO GET ACROSS TO THE US AUTHORITIES THERE WILL BE NO PRECIPITATE ACTION FROM HIS GOVERNMENT, WHICH WILL ATTEMPT TO PLAY THE CURRENT SITUATION CAUTIOUSLY.
- B. FRANCO'S HEALTH

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EMBASSY MADRID CHARGE EATON WRITES THAT IN A RECENT CEREMONY FRANCO APPEARED IN PUBLIC FOR ALMOST ONE HOUR, SPEAKING BRIEFLY AND STANDING THROUGHOUT. HE SEEMED, HOWEVER, "PALE, EXPRESSIONLESS, AND WEAKER." (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 15241 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 6830, 10/2.)

4. ALI-FRAZIER STRIKE BLOWS FOR DETENTE

EMBASSY MOSCOW REPORTS THAT THE ALI-FRAZIER FIGHT WAS CARRIED IN ITS ENTIRETY ON SOVIET PRIME TIME TV. THE STRAIGHT-FORWARD AND NON IDOLOGICAL RUNNING COMMENTARY MADE NO MEN-

TION OF US RACIAL PROBLEMS NOR OF ALI'S PAST DRAFT TROUBLES. THE TELECAST OFFERS A "STRIKING" EXAMPLE OF HOW DETENTE CAN AFFECT SOVIET DECISION-MAKING ON INTERNAL QUESTIONS IN CONTRAST TO WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN DONE WITH IT FIVE YEARS AGO. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MOSCOW 14067, 10/2.)

5. IRAN: SHAH CONCERNED OVER INDIAN AND SOVIET AMBITIONS

THE SHAH DOUBTS THE SINCERITY OF INDIAN ASSURANCES THAT "THEY HAVE NO HOSTILE INTENTIONS" TOWARD PAKISTAN AND BELIEVES THEIR ULTIMATE GOAL IS DISMEMBERMENT. HE SEES A SOVIET HAND IN THE BACKGROUND, ORCHESTRATING LONG RANGE PRESSURES FROM INDIA AND IMMEDIATE PRESSURES FROM AFGHANISTAN, WITH THE SEPARATION OF PUSHTUNISTAN AND BALUCHISTAN AS THE FIRST STEP. THE SHAH NOTED:

--IRAN CANNOT ACCEPT FURTHER DISMEMBERMENT OF PAKISTAN, AND HE IS BUILDING UP IRAN'S MILITARY DEFENSES IN CASE THE INDIANS PROVE FALSE. (SECRET) TEHRAN 9753 (EXDIS), 10/5.) KISSINGER

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